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valuable in some respects than that of Mr. Shaw. He points out the system adopted for the passage of private and local bills, and lays greater emphasis upon the administrative control over the various local corporations, which has grown out of the administrative legislation of the present century. As this is one of the most important changes which has been introduced into the English system, and as it has completely modified the old system of local self-government, no consideration of English institutions as they exist at the present time is complete, or even adequate, without an explanation of its effect upon the English system of administration.

A fault common to both of these books is that they are unaccompanied by references of any sort. This fact makes it extremely difficult to control the statements of the authors.

F. J. GOODNOW.

Europe, 1789-1815. By H. MORSE STEPHENS. London, Rivington, Percival & Co.; New York, Macmillan & Co., 1893.—423 pp.

The Revolutionary and Napoleonic Era, 1789-1815. By J. H. ROSE. Cambridge, University Press; New York, Macmillan & Co., 1894.—388 pp.

The period covered by these two books has not been neglected by historians. The dramatic intensity of its various phases, the picturesqueness of its leading characters, and its place as the connecting link between the old and the new conception of government, necessarily cause it to be a favorite period for research. Yet in nearly all the histories covering different portions of this period, some of them works of the highest merit, two grave defects may be found. The first is the failure properly to emphasize the fact that between the Napoleonic era and the Revolutionary era there are no hard and fast lines to be drawn, and that the two periods must be studied as one and the same product of the political, intellectual and religious upheaval of the eighteenth century. The second is the undue concentration of the attention upon France, neglecting sufficient consideration of the internal condition and history of the other European countries. This is naturally most noticeable in the histories of the Revolutionary Epoch; Napoleon's career necessarily draws the attention of the writer more to Europe at large. It is gratifying to note the appearance of the two volumes before us, each of which purports to avoid the common faults and to give us in con-

venient size a *résumé* of the historical development of Europe from 1789 to 1815.

Mr. Stephens's volume constitutes period seven in the Oxford "Periods of European History," edited by Arthur Hassall, M.A. A scholarly work would be expected from Mr. Stephens, whose extended researches into French Revolutionary history have made him one of the most thoroughly equipped workers in this field. Nor is one disappointed after reading the book. To a great extent the author has succeeded in preserving the judicial attitude, and in casting aside English prejudices in his estimates of the leading characters. The temptation to neglect the history of Europe while describing the more vivid features of the upheaval in France is successfully resisted. He has skillfully woven together the stories of even the minor European powers, and has enabled the most cursory student to get such a grasp of the whole subject as is utterly unobtainable from many more extended works.

On the other hand Mr. Stephens has not neglected to emphasize the fact that France is the central figure, and that the other countries group themselves around her. He summarizes the intellectual revolution, the reaction against the church, the social inequalities and the foreign influences, but he does not find in these the true foundations of the revolution. "The causes of the movement," he claims, "were chiefly economical and political, not philosophical and social: its rapid development was due to historical circumstances, and mainly to the attitude of the rest of Europe."

If he had had more space, he might have made more clear his reasons for slighting the social phase of the movement, which so vitally affected economical and political conditions, and rendered France a fertile field in which to sow the philosophical abstractions of Rousseau. He correctly describes the condition of the peasantry in France as far better than that in certain other European countries; yet, in his eagerness to correct a popular misconception, he fails adequately to indicate the real misery of the French peasant. This may sometimes give the reader a false impression of the conditions under the *Ancien Régime*.

In a work of this nature it would be impossible to expect more than the merest outline of the events of the French Revolution. Considering the space at the author's command, a remarkably complete account is given. The ever-present necessity of condensation occasionally results unfortunately. The bald statement that Robespierre "was a profoundly religious and virtuous man," and

that "the chief cause of his hatred of Hébert and Danton was his belief that they were immoral atheists," is one that must be questioned. A fuller analysis of Robespierre's character would doubtless have modified the statement. The conventional painting of Robespierre is in too black colors, but his selfishness and ambition cannot so easily be overlooked.

In his treatment of Napoleon the author is especially just. We may reasonably expect a far different conception of the great conqueror in the histories now appearing from that to be found in earlier works. Napoleon's character was utterly incomprehensible to his contemporaries, and their erroneous judgments have been adopted by the majority of writers. The result has been either excessively eulogistic or uncharitably denunciatory. Mr. Stephens has profited by the painstaking study of the present generation, and shows us Napoleon as a really great reformer, the creature of the revolutionary spirit, yet necessarily hampered by conditions that were due to the sudden overthrow of long-established institutions.

Mr. Rose's work is published in the Cambridge Historical Series, which is somewhat different in its scope from the Oxford series. The latter endeavors to give a general survey of Europe in successive periods; the former sketches the history of modern Europe, but deals with the different countries in separate volumes. However, when an epoch such as this under consideration is reached, the Cambridge writers abandon their own in favor of the Oxford plan.

In many respects Mr. Rose should be as highly commended as Mr. Stephens. He has labored conscientiously to present French history in its proper relation to the history of the other European countries. If we were to judge the books strictly according to the historical importance of the subject-matter, we should be compelled to say that the sense of historical proportion is better preserved in this book than in that of Mr. Stephens. But as the chief need for more general studies in this period is to throw a better light on European affairs, the Cambridge work suffers in the comparison. Mr. Rose could have spared some of the detail in his chapters on French affairs and expanded his discussions on the larger European problems. Yet some of his work in the latter field is admirable. For instance his first chapter, on the political and social weakness of Europe, while not so original as some portions of Mr. Stephens's discussion, is an excellent portrayal of the conditions confronting Europe in the last decade of the century. The spirit of Mr. Rose's work is commendable. He has tried to free himself from

insular prejudices and to write in the attitude of dispassionate criticism. In the main he has succeeded.

The incidents of the French Revolution are so theatrical that it has seemed difficult for the most sober historians to abstain from coloring their pictures, and from throwing a far too lurid light upon events which, separated from their connection with the movement at large, are really of minor importance. Mr. Rose's work is quite free from this defect, as is particularly to be seen in his account of the storming of the Bastile.

His treatment of the Napoleonic Era is praiseworthy so far as the narrative is concerned, but his conception of the character of Napoleon is not so satisfactory. He assumes throughout almost a hostile attitude toward the great French leader. His praise is grudgingly bestowed, and his criticisms of Napoleon's plans and actions are at times unreasonably harsh. One is constantly reminded while reading this portion of the book, that the writer is an Englishman, with an Englishman's inherited prejudices.

Taken as a whole, however, Mr. Rose's work may well rank with that of Mr. Stephens. The two books are substantial additions to the library of the general student of history.

C. E. CHADSEY.

DURANGO, COLORADO.

Selections from the Correspondence of Thomas Barclay, formerly British Consul-General at New York. Edited by GEORGE LOCKHART RIVES, M.A., late Assistant Secretary of State of the United States. New York, Harper & Brothers, 1894. — 429 pp.

This volume exhibits an advance in thought, if not in time, beyond the managers of a certain historical society, who, in printing the diary of a Revolutionary character, carefully omitted the passages in which a member of a well-known family was spoken of as a Tory. Thomas Barclay "was an active and zealous loyalist." He was born in the city of New York in 1753; he died there in 1830. He died, as he was born, a British subject. He spent nearly fifty years in the service of the British government; yet his residence and associations were chiefly American, and his principal public services related to American affairs.

About six months after the battle of Lexington Thomas Barclay was married and took up his residence in Ulster County, where his wife's maternal grandfather, Cadwallader Colden, owned large tracts of land. His father, Henry Barclay, as rector of Trinity Church, represented